(iv) Prisoners found involved in drug trafficking are being awarded severe punishment under the law.

Reopening of Sajjan Mills, Ratlam and Hope Textiles Mill, Indore

1034. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh initiative for restoring the Sajjan Mill of Ratlam and the Hope Textiles Mill of Indore which have been lying closed for a long time resulting in undue hardship to a large number of workers and their families;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government intend *to* keep them closed and provide some alternative and equally remunerative job opportunities to the affected workers; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government in regard to the reopening of these mills and if so, what is the Central Government's response thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government had constituted a Nodal Agency to determine whether sick textile mills are potentially viable or not. Mills found by the Nodal Agency to be nonviable ma. y have to close down permanently. The Nodal Agency has concluded that Hope Textiles Limited, Indore and Shree Sajjan Mills, Ratlam are non-viable.

The workers of these mills which close down permanently from 6 lune, 1985 will be eligible for financial assistance under the "Textiles Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme".

(d) The Madhya Pradesh Government had requested the Union Government to take over Shree Sajjan Mills. This was not possible because the June 1985 Textile Policy Statement clearly says that take over or nationalisation of sick units is not a solution to the problem of sickness and Government would not, as a rule, intervene in such cases.

Interim Relief to Sugar Workers

1035. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minisier of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided ! to grant interim relief to sugar workers;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of interim relief proposed; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take so that the above variable DA is paid ! to the sugar workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The workers had represented for the grant of second interim relief and revision in Variable Dearness Allowance. These demands were forwarded to the Sugar Wage Board for consideration. The Report of the Wage Board in this respect is under consideration of the Government.

Acquisition of Properties by the Income Tax Department in Bombay

1036. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what arc the details of properties acquired by the Appropriate Authority of the Income Tax Department, Bombay, during the last six months alongwith the value of each of these properties;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the properties are not having clear titles and are disputed ones;

(c) if so, what are the details of such properties; and

(d) whether Government are likely to get sufficient amount from these properties dming auction and if not, what are the reasons for pre-emptive purchase of these properties ?

j THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE I DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN